

## LOCAL SOLUTIONS

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, for years we have heard a lot about what is wrong with our Government's efforts to solve poverty, hunger, and abuse. Last Congress, we passed welfare reform and turned the bulk of those efforts over to the States, communities, and individuals. Today, I am here to share with this body success stories—stories from my district about communities coming together to help people one at a time.

Last week, while back in my southern California district, I was delighted to visit places like Saint Clare's Home in Escondido, CA. Sister Claire runs the program that houses and cares for battered women and their children until they can re-enter society and provide for themselves. This place offers much more than a check ever could. Counselors provide one-to-one nurturing, job counseling, and a friendly face to turn to when troubles arise.

Also, I had the opportunity to tour the food distribution center in Orange County, CA, which sorts and directs surplus foods to charities throughout the county. This center takes perfectly good surplus food and instead of it going to the dumpster it feeds the hungry.

Finally, I witnessed the therapeutic miracles of the Fran Joswick Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan Capistrano, CA. This riding facility provides a truly unique and enjoyable alternative therapy for developmentally and physically disabled children through horse riding and grooming. Children achieve physical and mental feats they otherwise would not have.

These groups have something truly significant in common—they were not thought up by some Government bureaucrat, not powered by some Government employee, and not entirely dependent on taxpayer dollars for their existence. Instead, their success rests on the basic principle that local citizens know best what the needs of their communities are; that families, churches, and service groups will always do a better job because their passion for helping others is both genuine and infinite in nature. My colleagues and I, participating in the Renewal Alliance, will continue to highlight these and other community efforts that are rebuilding lives and restoring hope.

## FAMILIES AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about families and the American Dream. Nothing drives our society and stirs our passions more than this dream, and Mr. Speaker, nothing is more fundamental to the success of our American Dream than the family.

Our families are the cornerstone of our republic, and throughout our history, the family has been the source of our Nation's strength and values. A great deal of love, compassion, understanding, and patience go into building a

successful family. It also takes courage and commitment to begin one, but no one would question its value.

On April 19, 1997, at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church in Smithtown, Long Island, two young people, whom I have the privilege to know and represent in this House, will enter into the bonds of holy matrimony. Ms. Mary Beth Faults, only daughter of Thomas Joseph Faults, Jr., and Judith Anne Faults, and Theodore Vincent Peck III, only son of Theodore Vincent Peck, Jr., and Christine Helen Peck, will on that day, joined by 140 of their friends and family, express their love and lifetime commitment to each other. Once again, this celebration held throughout our history, will be reenacted in a small corner of our land, and two of our young citizens will begin their personal journey toward fulfilling the America Dream.

Few will notice beyond those attending, Mr. Speaker, but considering that so much of what we here in this Congress debate concerns the welfare and security of our families, it is wholly fitting that we should pause for a moment to honor and reflect on this small event, which is so vital to the perpetuation of our country. I urge my colleagues to join with me in extending to the happy couple best wishes for a long, healthy, and successful marriage.

## CCBC WINS NJCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community College of Beaver County men's basketball team for their terrific season culminating with the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Championship.

The Titans, coached by Mark Javens, finished the season with an impressive 36-1 record. Additionally, they spent 15 weeks as the Nations No. 1 ranked division II junior college basketball team. In a post game interview with the Beaver County Times, guard Juan Patterson said, "We won 36 games, we lost only 1, and we won a national championship. There aren't too many teams on any level that can do that!" The poise, professionalism, and pride which CCBC has exuberated during this most memorable season are indicative of the manner in which the students and faculty of this fine institution of higher learning conduct themselves on a daily basis.

With the help of some last second heroics provided by guard Jeff Benson, CCBC defeated Penn Valley Community College, Kansas City, MO to win the division II tournament, played at Danville Area Community College, in Danville, IL. The depth, and commitment of this team are what made this victory possible. In winning a national championship, the Titan's elevated themselves to a level that few will ever reach.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate the players, Al Franklin, Wayne Copeland, Larry Walker, Juan Patterson, Quincy Davidson, Jeff Benson, Ahmal Bodden, Larry Cottrill, Mark Foust, Matt Fondrk, as well as coach Javens and his assistants, Von Jeffrey

Jones and Ron Rowan, trainer, Jeff Cienik and the athletic director, Michael Macon. You have made your school, your community, and the entire Fourth Congressional District proud.

## REMEMBERING A PIECE OF AMERICAN HISTORY: ALABAMA'S HISTORIC BURNT CORN POST OFFICE

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today I call attention to a little known occurrence that brings to a close a 179-year-old chapter in American and Alabama history. I'm speaking of the closing of the historic Burnt Corn Post Office in rural Conecuh County, AL.

On this day, the Burnt Corn Post Office stamps its last letter. Looking like a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting, the small, single window, wood-paneled post office, tucked away in the corner of a general store in Burnt Corn has become a local landmark. But it is more than just a relic, it is a link to America's adventurous past.

Located on what was once known as the Federal Road, the Burnt Corn Post Office was first established in 1817 and served weary travelers on their way to America's growing western frontier.

According to the Conecuh Countian, Burnt Corn was first mentioned in the acts of Congress establishing post roads, authorizing a post road from "Fort Mitchell, by Fort Bainbridge, Fort Jackson, Burnt Corn Spring, Fort Claiborne and the town of Jackson to St. Stephens."

When it was created, the Burnt Corn Post Office was located along a route from Washington City, by way of Athens, GA to New Orleans in the new Louisiana Territory.

The Burnt Corn Post Office possibly served many famous persons, among them Francis Scott Key, Andrew Jackson, and Vice President Aaron Burr while on their official travels.

The Burnt Corn Post Office, once a vital communications link for frontier travelers of the 19th century, is now destined for the history books. It is a time capsule from a simpler and more adventurous past when horseback riders and stagecoaches conveyed citizens of an ambitious adolescent republic called the United States of America.

## SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA'S RE-INDEPENDENCE

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Republic of Georgia's re-independence.

Georgia, one of the most ancient countries in the world, is situated in the Caucasus region, the crossroads of Europe and Asia. The country's rich culture and heritage is exemplified by its language, Georgian, which is over 2,000 years old, and which employs the